

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, new claims 8-18 are presented for examination. These claims include the particular feature of a discharge confining means comprised of silicon surrounding the vacuum processing chamber. Accordingly, entry of these newly submitted claims is respectfully requested.


In addition, Applicants hereby respectfully request an interview in this matter to discuss all of the currently pending claims in the present application, including the newly submitted claims 8-18. In particular, Applicants request that the interview be conducted on February 3, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. At that time, the undersigned attorney, as well as Mr. Masaki Fujita, Applicants' Japanese representative, would like to attend the interview with the Examiner. The purpose of this interview will be to discuss the distinctions of the presently pending claims in the application over the cited prior art from the various parent applications. Applicants and the undersigned attorney greatly appreciate the Examiner's courtesy and cooperation with regard to setting up this interview. With regard to this, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to verify the time for the interview, or to reschedule the interview, if necessary. It is also noted that Applicants would like to conduct an interview, at the same time, with regard to a Continuation application, serial number 10/985,052, which has been filed on November 10, 2004.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 520.35237CV4), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
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GEM/dlt

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